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ALBERTA BIRD ATLAS NEWSLETTER

A Project of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists

Vol. 2, No. 2
Editor: H. Loney Dickson
Executive Director: Jack Clements
Summer, 1988
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON

"The sight and sound of birds sharing our surroundings can be a source of joy for all of us. I am enthusiastic about the Alberta Bird Atlas Project and believe it will generate new interest in our wild friends and a better effort in bird conservation. I am proud indeed, to be lending my name to this worthy undertaking and add my thanks to the many volunteer observers and workers making it possible." ❑

—The Hon. Dr. J. W. Grant MacEwan

Patron: Alberta Bird Atlas Project

ALBERTA BIRD ATLAS DAY DESIGNATED BY FJORDBOTTEN

EDMONTON—The Honourable LeRoy Fjordbotten, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, announced today the designation of June 25, 1988, as Alberta Bird Atlas Day in support of the Alberta Bird Atlas.

Mr. Fjordbotten said: "In a province well-known for its tremendous volunteer spirit, over 2000 volunteers will be documenting the nesting and breeding areas of the more than 250 bird species that frequent Alberta. Knowledge of the status of birds in Alberta is uneven and limited mainly to settled regions and sporadic reports. This is a worthy project that every Albertan should support."

Further commitments are planned on behalf of the Alberta government to support the hobby of bird-watching and nature appreciation. "Bird-watching is the fastest growing hobby in Canada. To support our government's commitment to wildlife for non-consumptive purposes, we intend to develop interpretational facilities at sites with high wildlife populations. We still have to consider such aspects as timing and funding, but we hope to make an announcement later in the year" said Mr. Fjordbotten.

Until completion of the project, a day at the end of each June will be designated to focus attention and support on this important work. ❑

—Extracts from a news release from the Govt. of Alberta, Friday, June 24, 1988.

FLASH...FLASH...

The interest in the Alberta Bird Atlas Project is growing rapidly. Volunteers are telephoning, writing and returning volunteer forms to find out how to become involved in the Project and to get started atlassing. So many of you are volunteering that it has become a bit of a problem at times at Project Headquarters to keep up. This is, however, the kind of problem we like. We apologize if at times we have been a bit slow to respond and to get you started.

All the signs now are that we will greatly exceed last year's field season.❑

—Jack Clements

THE 1988 REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS WORKSHOP

The Regional Coordinators met at the Provincial Museum of Alberta on April 16 to discuss last year's results and plan for the coming year. All of the regions in the province were represented by the Coordinators or their designates.

There were many items on the agenda, and the day was full from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lively discussions were held on many items,including the types of errors being made on field forms, the use of the abundance codes, and the type of information collected on the casual record form. As a result of the discussions, all atlassers are urged to record the abundance codes on the field forms, and the casual record form is being revised to match more closely the kind of information recorded on the field forms. Plans for atlassing during Canadian Environment Week and the Alberta Bird Atlas Day were also reviewed. In addition, the summary prepared by the Field Data Summary Team of last year's results was reviewed and discussed. ❑

—Bob Gerlock

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1988

The Alberta Bird Atlas Project marked Canadian Environment Week by atlassing squares on two federal lands: Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake and Canadian Forces Base Suffield. The project was fortunate in

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

Corrine and I set out to find the bird and located it easily within a few minutes. Several members of the rest of the group were also able to catch a glimpse of this *lifer* before it quietly disappeared. We finished our walk satisfied that this had been the perfect conclusion to a wonderful day.

In the next article you can find more results on this successful day. ❑

—Myrna D. Pearman

ALBERTA BIRD RECORD

The *Alberta Bird Record* is a seasonal journal of field ornithology in Alberta. The province is divided up into 11 reporting zones from which summaries are received for Winter (Dec.-Feb.), Spring (Mar.-May), Summer (June-July), and Fall (Aug.-Nov.). Articles on migration trends, unusual behaviors, identification problems, current species' status etc. are also published in the journal. Those interested in the journal should write to the: A.O.R.C., 3426 Lane Crescent SW, Calgary, Alberta T3E 5X2. ❑

ALBERTA BIRD ATLAS DAY— A HUGE SUCCESS

The following is an incomplete summary of the data collected across the province on Alberta Bird Atlas Day (June 25). In regions 8, 9 and 10, Atlassers ventured to some of Alberta's remote areas. So remote that we were unable to obtain a complete summary in time for the newsletter deadline.

Highlights of the day included: a pacific loon near Grande Prairie; an American redstart in Fort McMurray; a tree sparrow, bobolink and a great-crested flycatcher in the Sylvan Lake region; a black-billed cuckoo, a hawk owl and a hooded merganser in the Edmonton region; an immature great-horned owl and a pair of sandhill cranes near Westlock; a nesting Cooper's hawk and a snowy egret near Medicine Hat; a number of tundra swans were sighted passing through the Calgary region; and a wild turkey was spotted in the Lethbridge region.

When comparing the data collected on Alberta Bird Atlas Day with that collected for the entire season of 1987, it's clear that ABA Day was a huge success. An impressive number of Atlassers were out during the day and an outstanding number of squares were visited.

Congratulations to all the Atlassers and Coordinators who took part in this special day and thank you for all your extra efforts. ❑

DATA SUMMARY FOR ALBERTA BIRD ATLAS DAY*

Region	No. of Atlassers	No. of Squares	No. of Species/Sq.	No. of Hours/Sq.
Lethbridge	6	1	56	26
Medicine Hat	10	1	81	33
Calgary	5	2	58	4.5 to 5.5
Sylvan L.-Stettler	17	10	111[A]	1 to 8.5
Vermilion-Wainwright	5	7	10 to 44	3 to 14
Jasper-Edson	8	8	data unavailable at time of newsletter	
Edmonton	21	14	10 to 70	2 to 9
St.Paul-Cold Lake[B]	Richard Klauke, R/C for St. Paul-Cold Lake, was on a remote trip in region 10			
Grande Prairie-Peace River	13 10 to 12 remotes[B]	1	74	8
Fort McMurray	5 6 remotes[B]	4 1	48 to 79	2.5 to 8
TOTALS	106 approx.	49	10 to 79	1 to 14

* These data are incomplete as we were unable to collect all the informatin in time for the newsletter.
[A] The range was unavailable, number given was total for all squares atlassed.
[B] Complete data was unavailable at printing time.

NEWS FLASH— REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Nancy Twynam, Coordinator for the Vermilion-Wainwright region will be leaving Canada temporarily on July 16, 1988.

We would like to thank Nancy for her contribution to the organization and promotion of the Alberta Bird Atlas Project during its first year. Her support and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

We wish Nancy *Good Luck* in her new endeavours and look forward to her return next year.

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Effective July 1st, 1988, Mrs. Iris Davies will assume the Coordinator's duties for the Vermilion-Wainwright region, in Nancy Twynam's absence of 13 months. During this temporary position, Mrs. Davies can be contacted at: Box 93, Dewberry, Alberta, T0B 1G0, 847-2677.

Welcome to the Project, Mrs. Davies. It's a pleasure to have you aboard.

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Mike Vandyk, one of the co-coordinators for the Lethbridge region, has resigned his position and moved away from Alberta for at least 5 years.

Mike's skill and enthusiasm has contributed greatly to the establishment of the project ground work during its first year.

We would like to thank Mike for his support of the project and to wish him *Good Luck* in his new endeavour.

Bill Sharp, who has been working closely with Mike, will become the sole coordinator for the Lethbridge region. ❑

HELP WANTED

Myrna Pearman, Regional Coordinator for the west half of the Sylvan-Lake Stettler region, is looking for volunteers to help atlas the priority squares in the northwest corner of her region, i.e. near Rocky Mountain House. Myrna asks that if you are interested, contact her at Box 127, Sylvan Lake, Alberta T0M 1Z0 or phone 346-2211. ❑

1987 ALBERTA BIRD ATLAS DATA SUMMARIES

As the first year of the Alberta Bird Atlas Project, 1987 was a very successful year. The solid foundation of both numerical and human resources that was established during this year, will form the ground work for the next four years of the project.

A network of approximately 266 Atlassers plus casual observers and helpers across the province was organized during this year. These Atlassers visited a total of 247 squares and they devoted in excess of 4203 hours of their time to the project. These figures are still incomplete as the entire data are unavailable as yet.

These are very impressive numbers for our first year.

Congratulations to all the Atlassers, Coordinators, headquarter volunteers and staff for a great beginning.

1987 REGIONAL SUMMARY

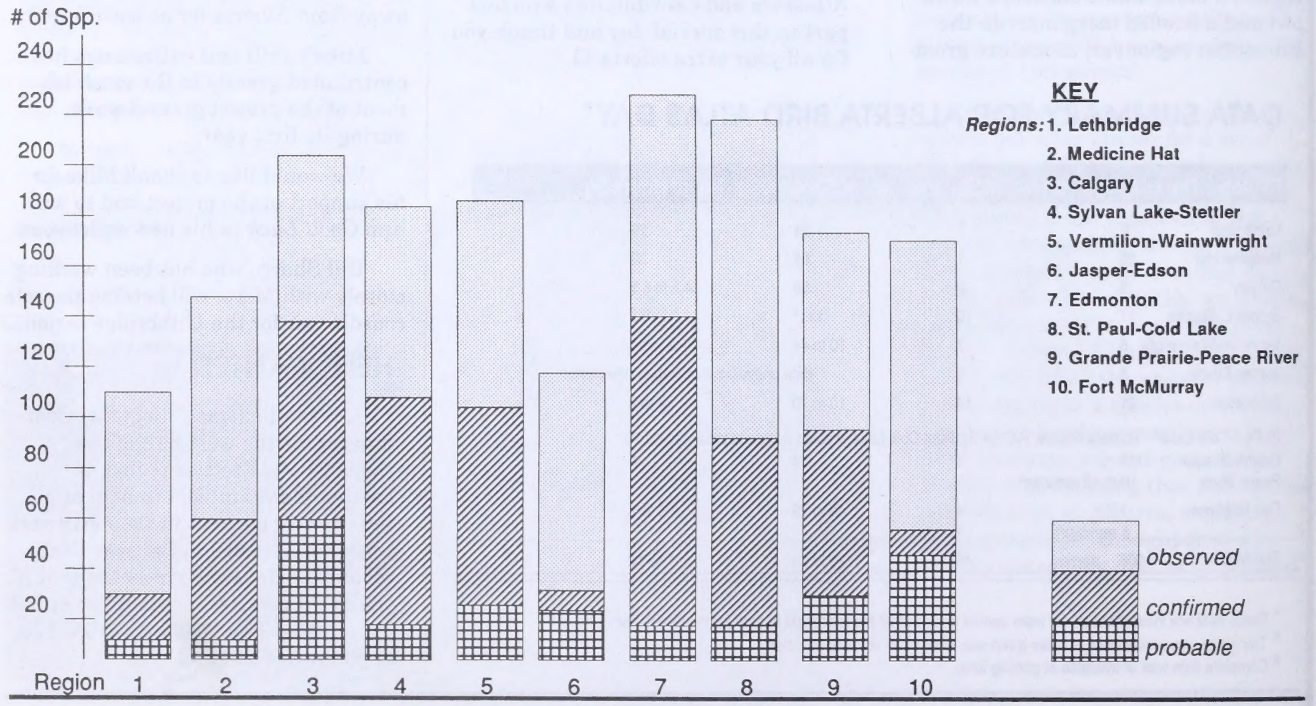
Region	# of Atlassers	# of Sqs	# of Hrs
Lethbridge	8	9	184+
Medicine Hat	15	39	278+
Calgary	28	20	529+
Sylvan L.-Stettler	31	36	718+
Vermilion-Wainwr.	22	9	187+
Jasper-Edson	12	13	179+
Edmonton	94	47	1636+
St.Paul-Cold Lake	21	44	176+
Grande Prairie-Peace River	18	13	199+
Fort McMurray	17	17	117+
TOTALS	266	247	4203+

REGIONAL SUMMARIES OF SPECIES TOTALS

Region	Total	Confirmed	Probable
Lethbridge	110	31	8
Medicine Hat	149	60	8
Calgary	204	138	60
Sylvan L.-Stettler	185	108	17
Vermilion-Wainwr.	187	104	27
Jasper-Edson	119	32	25
Edmonton	228	141	19
St.Paul-Cold Lake	215	92	17
Grande Prairie-Peace River	172	96	30
Fort McMurray	170	57	47

Table 1 gives a brief summary for each region while Table 2 summarizes the number of observed, confirmed and probable for each region. ❑

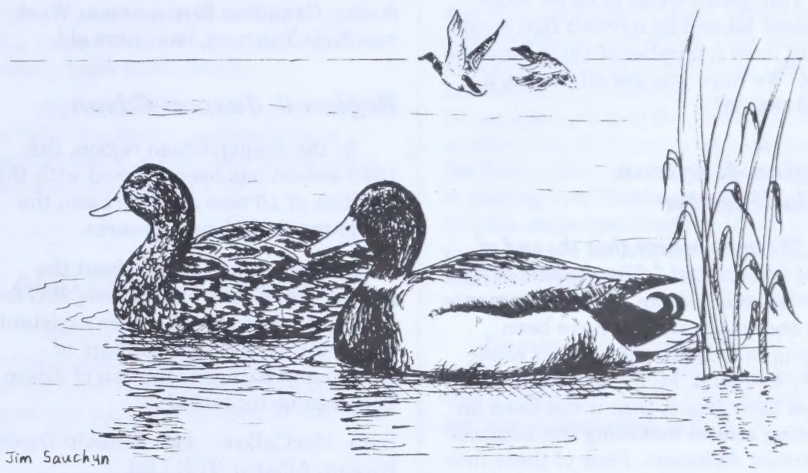
REGIONAL SUMMARY OF SPECIES TOTALS— CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE



MALLARDS

—reprinted in part from the Colorado Bird Atlas Newsletter No. 3.

Many Atlassers have seen pairs of ducks on their atlas forays and puzzled over whether or not to report them as a breeding pair. Ducks (and chickadees) pair up in the fall and maintain the pair bond over the winter into the breeding season. Most bird behavior has a biological reason, but so far, ornithologists offer only speculative reasons for this. Donald and Lillian Stokes comment in *The Living Bird*, "Studies have shown that paired ducks are dominant over unpaired ducks. This could mean that ducks that pair early are more likely to gain access to food in the event of a shortage. Another possible reason for early pairing may be competition for females since there often are more males in a given flock."



Mallards typically engage in various displays as a preliminary to mating. In the usual display, referred to by the Stokes as "head-pumping", the pair rhythmically bob their heads together and then copulate. However, during the mating season you sometimes may see a forced mating between the female and a male not her mate. Without the head-pumping display, the male seemingly forces himself upon the female. "This usually occurs within an hour after the female has laid an egg. At this time she has started to develop another egg to be laid the next day. Without a forced mating she would use sperm stored from her last mating, presumably from her regular partner." The new sperm are more likely to fertilize her developing egg: thus ducks have developed a way to diversify their genes.

Males molt about the time the females begin to incubate. If you see a pair during the suspected incubation period, or when other ducks of the same species have young on the pond, then the pair you see probably did not nest.

Then– about their calls. Only the female mallard quacks! That doesn't, however, mean that the male keeps quiet. He has what Stokes calls a *"drawn-out, nasal rhaeb"* which he utters during disturbances or possible danger. Males have a *"fast, two-syllable rebreb, rebreb, rebreb"* call which they give during aggressive encounters between males. They have a third call– an unexpected short, high-pitched whistle given during courtship displays.

Mallard territories do not include the nest; in fact they can be quite a distance from the nest, though usually within 100 yards. The territory consists of open water for feeding, dense vegetation for protection, and some sort of beach for loafing and preening. The scarcity of loafing areas may limit the number of territories in a particular wetland. Like other birds, the pair does not allow other mallards on their territory. It defends it only for a short time before incubation starts. You can identify the territory if the ducks remain in the same area of water daily for two weeks, and if, when you flush them, they return to the same place in the water.

After incubation begins, the female drives away the male. The second day after hatching, she leads the young to the water. She and her brood do not tolerate other broods. Pecking and even drowning will occur if two broods come too close together. ❑

REGIONAL NEWS

Region 2. Medicine Hat

Rob Gardner, R/C, reports that it has been a busy season for the Medicine Hat region. The highlight of the season was the trip to CFB Suffield during Canadian Environment Week (May 30 to June 5). A number of interesting sightings were reported including yellow warblers, hundreds of meadowlarks, and four loggerhead shrike nests.

Surprisingly, it was not what they saw that was the most exciting but what they didn't see. The Atlassers were unable to locate any hawks or burrowing owls. The area they were surveying turned out to be very sandy, making it difficult for ground squirrels to settle in colonies. Without this major food source, there was nothing to hold the hawks and burrowing owls in the area thus they were off in *greener pastures*.

Also seen were: common loon, snowy egret and sage thrasher.

Region 3. Calgary

Bob Storms reports that the Calgary region is comfortably established with a strong and stable base of approximately 25 Atlassers. Of this

25, 10 new Atlassers joined this season.

This group tends to be an independent lot and as a result Bob hasn't heard from a number of them for some time. We hope you are all having a good season!

Region 4. Sylvan Lake–Stettler

"We can't believe that the end of June has arrived." "Time seems to fly by when you're busy." These comments and ones quite similar have been coming in from all regions but especially Region 4. Myrna Pearman and Lloyd Lohr report that it has been an exciting season including the addition of 30 new Atlassers. Four of these new Atlassers are from the Rocky Mountain House area. This is a welcome addition since this area has not been covered yet and the recent forest fires in that area present a new and perhaps challenging venture for the coming years. Areas that were once not accessible have now been opened by fire lines and the mature coniferous habitat will soon be replaced by a young deciduous forest. We look forward to following the information from this area.

The beginning of July marked a good time to spot great-crested flycatchers in the Sylvan Lake-Stettler region. On separate occasions, (and on opposite ends of their region), Lloyd and Myrna both sighted one of these scarce little birds. Good spotting!

Region 5. Vermilion–Wainwright

Special mention goes out to a dedicated Atlasser in Region 5– Suzanne Benoit. In addition to actively atlassing her own assigned squares, Suzanne has put in an extra effort to become involved in two special events; an atlassing trip to Cold Lake Weapons Range during Canadian Environment Week and the activities of Alberta Bird Atlas Day. On Alberta Bird Atlas Day alone, Suzanne atlassed two squares.

Thank you for your dedication Suzanne.

Point of interest: The youngest birder to venture out on the field trip to the Cold Lake Weapons Range during Canadian Environment Week was Kyle Twynam, two years old.

Region 6. Jasper–Edson

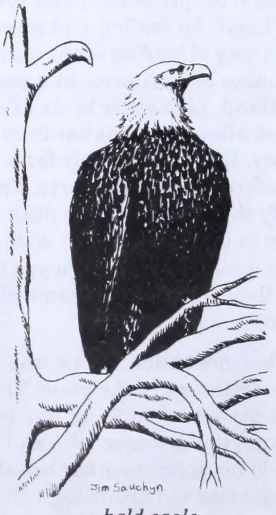
In the Jasper-Edson region, the 1988 season has been marked with the addition of 15 new Atlassers and the assignment of 21 new squares.

People are so excited about the project that Kevin Van Tighen, R/C for the region, has recruited two assistant coordinators, Beth MacCallum of Hinton and Richard Quinlan of Edson. They can be contacted at:

Beth MacCallum, 110 Seabolt Drive, Hinton, Alberta T0E 1B0
(wk) 865-3390 (hm) 865-4906

Richard Quinlan, c/o Fish and Wildlife Division, Bag 9000, Edson, Alberta T0E 0PE (hm) 723-5976

Kevin Van Tighen reports a number of interesting sightings for the region including two new bald eagle nests near the highway, a male house finch in the town of Jasper staking out a territory, a magnolia warbler, a swamp sparrow and a pair of wood ducks. In addition, a pileated woodpecker nest, a flicker nest and a Barrow's goldeye nest were all found in two trees that stood beside each other.



bald eagle

Region 7. Edmonton

Terry Thormin, R/C for the Edmonton region, has had a hectic season with three workshops so far this year. The total number of Atlassers for the region is in excess of 100 and 55 new squares have been assigned for the 1988 season.

This season has been highlighted with a few unusual sightings including bobolinks in three squares, the most westerly being near Cynthia, a number of black-billed cuckoos and a hooded merganser. Jim Lange spotted both a hawk owl and a great grey owl fledgling in his square near Barrhead.

Region 8. St. Paul–Cold Lake

Richard Klauke (R/C) reports that spring has been a busy but productive one. On a field trip with the Vermilion River Naturalists on May 15, migrating whimbrels were spotted at Kenilworth Lake (Wainwright Region). Highlights of a spring warbler trip to Lac La Biche and Cold Lake areas on May 21-22, on which Myrna Pearman from the Red Deer Region joined me, included a number of rare and unexpected migrants and possible breeding birds. These included a pair of late migrating greater scaup at Lac La Biche and finding both Virginia rails and yellow rails along with sedge wrens as possible breeders in a fen area near Cold Lake. Nineteen species of warblers provided colour and morning choruses of song to add spice to a wonderful weekend of birding. A number of breeding birds were confirmed. These included mallard (miles away from water in a spruce bog), hairy woodpecker and great-horned owl. Many other species were observed courting and setting up breeding territories. Other rare migrants which passed through the region in May included more greater scaup, a Eurasian wigeon, Hudsonian godwits, peregrine falcon, white-rumped and buff-breasted sandpipers as well as Smith's longspurs. A flock of 12-14 migrating arctic loons were spotted on Christina lake (while a bald eagle nest which had been spotted a couple of weeks earlier, eluded us) while surveying some remote squares near Conklin on May 31 (in pouring rain) together

with Blair Rippen, a Fish and Wildlife Biologist from St. Paul.

June has also been a real hot time for rare migrants and wanderers. Sabine gulls were seen for the second year in a row near St. Paul on June 2nd. June 4th and 5th saw a group of four intrepid birders– Suzanne Benoit from Vermilion, Blair Rippen and Ernie Ewaschuk from St. Paul and Richard Klauke exploring the country from English Bay to and including parts of the Primrose Weapons Range. Tent problems prevented Nancy Twynam and her husband Dave from arriving early enough to take part in most of the birding activity but their presence was nonetheless appreciated. Suzanne Benoit was the only person beside Richard that birded both days and her efforts were well rewarded with sights of Virginia rail, ruddy turnstone, yellow-bellied flycatcher, sedge wren, Cape May and Connecticut warblers and only hearing yellow rails (after wading about and falling in a marsh at 10:00 p.m., at the end of a very tiring day). A piping plover was seen by Richard at Cold Lake, while the rest of the party took a well deserved afternoon break on the 4th. Confirmed breeders for the whole area included red-necked grebe, merlin, Bonaparte's gull and common crow. Additional rarities seen on June 6th (and subsequent) included two Thayer's gulls and a mew gull at Cold Lake.

Rare migrants which appeared between the 16th and 18th of June included arctic tern (photographed June 16th, Lac La Biche) black duck, and an Iceland gull (photographed at Cold Lake on June 18th).

Region 10. Fort McMurray

The number of Atlassers in the Fort McMurray region has doubled with a total of 31 for the 1988 season. Brad Arner, R/C for the region, reports that several people have invested time in a number of remote areas, including two people from Fort Smith who are atlassing a square in Wood Buffalo National Park.

Many people have been reporting a much lower intensity of bird activity from previous years. This season has been a poor year for hatching success for water birds owing to the extraordinarily high water levels.

Sightings of interest have included a ruby-throated hummingbird, a golden eagle, a northern oriole and a western meadowlark. ❑

LAND OWNER CONTACTS

A picture may be worth a thousand words but a few words with some of the land owners in your square may give you a picture of some of the birds that are in the area.

Not everyone is an expert or even a good birder, but most farmers know a sandhill crane when they see one and many know the song of a meadowlark. These people **live** in your square most of the year and though you cannot fill in your cards simply by talking to them, they can certainly give you some clues as to what birds may be around and where to look for some interesting or rare birds.

I recently made a visit to a landowner north-east of Caroline, Alberta on business. He invited me in for a coffee and while we sat at his kitchen table watching a female hummingbird at his feeder, he told me about a sharptail dancing ground on another piece of land he owned. He said that he suspected sandhill cranes nested in a large muskeg east of that quarter and on another quarter to the south of where we sat, he had heard meadowlarks singing lately.

During another coffee break, this time with a neighbour of mine north-east of Rocky Mountain House, I learned that a pair of mourning doves may be nesting close by. Someone had swept out their truck in the driveway and a pair of doves had been eating the chicken feed that was spilt there. When the chicken feed was gone, the lady of the house had thrown out a scoop of barley in the same spot and after a while, she told me, only one dove at a time was coming to this feeding site.

Find out the landowner's name from a county map and on their mail box, phone ahead of time if possible and find out when it might be convenient for you to visit them. Talk to them in terms they will understand. "Hello, Mr. Smith, my name is _____ and I'm making a list of the birds that nest in this area, for a new bird book that the Federation of Alberta Naturalists is putting out." Some people may have trouble understanding you if you tell them you are an Atlasser surveying a square in a province-wide grid to record evidence of breeding birds.

Be prepared to drink a lot of coffee, eat some home-made pie and make some new friends. It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it. ❑

—Robin McDonald

SPECIAL THANKS...

Friends Of The Museum

The Friends of the Museum provided several volunteers to periodically relieve Federation of Alberta Naturalists and Alberta Bird Atlas Project volunteers at the booth in the Provincial Museum of Alberta during National Wildlife Week. The breaks in the busy schedule were greatly appreciated. Special thanks.

Alberta Bird Atlas Day– Headquarters

The success of the ABA Day wrap-up event for Project Headquarters was the result of the hard work of many people, including Mike Quinn, Phyllis Thompson, Arlene Ohlsen, Florence Phillips, Terry Thormin, Sue Fast and the John Janzen Nature Centre, Sean Moir, all the Atlassers and Regional Coordinators, and especially Alison Kuzyk. Special thanks.

Alberta Speleological Society

The Society invited Atlassers/ Owlers to join their spring caving expedition as part of the surface party. It was great of you to think of us. Special thanks.

Alberta Govt. Telephones

Judy Williams, Director, Corporate Communications, wrote "AGT is proud to support your efforts to collect information from across the province on various birds, and wish your volunteer *Atlassers* well with this interesting Project." Doug Wetter, Regional Manager, Northern Region, publicly announced the contribution on CHQT radio and made a symbolic representation of the cheque during the Alberta Bird Atlas Day wrap-up event. Special thanks.

Bausch & Lomb Canada Inc.

Bushnell Division contributed $500.00. "Bausch & Lomb Canada Inc. is honoured to contribute to the Alberta Bird Atlas Project and the association linked with the Federation of Alberta Naturalists. Bushnell recognizes the importance of providing documented wildlife data and the commitment necessary to accomplish such tasks." Special thanks.

Sceptre Resources

Sceptre Resources sent a donation to FAN in support of the Alberta Bird Atlas Project and sent best wishes for a successful program. Special thanks.

Pitney Bowes of Canada Ltd.

Pitney Bowes sent a cheque for the Project and will loan equipment to us at the time of each issue of the Newsletter in order to fold and add postage labels to each copy of the newsletter. Special thanks.

World Wildlife Fund

Elizabeth Agnew, Projects Manager wrote "I am pleased to inform you that your proposal for the Alberta Bird Atlas has been approved for $2,500.00 in 1988." Special thanks.

Chevron Canada Resources

Chevron sponsored the printing of the project brochure/poster. Dick Matzke, president said "Chevron Canada Resources believes strongly in protecting the environment and in providing information to the public about wildlife conservation in Alberta. We are pleased to sponsor the printing of this brochure/poster for the Alberta Bird Atlas Project." Special Thanks.

The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund

The Trustees are making a grant to the Project and have decided to set up a separate category of grants to cover atlas trips, and will be developing guidelines. Special thanks.

Ranger Oil Limited

Ranger Oil sent a cheque, said that it is a pleasure to support the work of the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, and sent best wishes for a highly successful program. Special thanks.

Carthy Foundation

Carthy Foundation made a contribution on behalf of the Loram Group of Companies. This contribution includes the interest of Manalta Coal Ltd. and Gregg River Resources Ltd., who said "...this donation demonstrates our enthusiasm and support for your project." Special thanks.

Home Oil Company Limited

Home Oil made a donation with the message that it takes great pleasure in sending a cheque as a contribution toward the Alberta Bird Atlas Project, and it wishes much success. Special thanks.

Individuals

In addition to the enormous efforts by the volunteers, e.g. time, travel, purchases of equipment, maps, books and clothing, individuals have made financial contributions too.

ALBERTA

David Ealey, John Rintool, Betty Nelson, Janet MacKay, Ed Kissinger, F. C. Lowe, Margaret Sware.

ONTARIO

G. H. Clements

OREGON

Mr. Swisher.

Special thanks.

Government of Alberta

The Honourable LeRoy Fjordbotten, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, announced the designation of June 25, 1988 as Alberta Bird Atlas Day in support of the Alberta Bird Atlas Project, and announced further commitments on behalf of the Alberta Government to support the hobby of bird-watching and nature appreciation with the intention to develop interpretational facilities at sites with high wildlife populations. Special thanks.

The Honourable Don Sparrow greeted at the legislative building the first American tourists to come to Alberta especially to atlas for the Project. Special thanks.

The Honourable Norm Weiss, Minister of Recreation and Parks was represented at the Alberta Bird Atlas Day wrap-up event and sent greetings and the announcement that his department intends to work with the Project in providing access to provincial parks. Mr. Weiss' representative in Fort McMurray was on hand to greet the American Atlassers at the end of their canoe tip. Special thanks.

The City of Fort McMurray

Mayor Chuck Knight also greeted the first American Atlassers when they completed their canoe trip on the Clearwater River. Special thanks.

ALBERTA BIRD ATLAS PROJECT, C/O
Alberta
CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM
PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA
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